JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH: Elizabeth Glanville

CONDUCTED BY: Kristen Larson

DATE: Sunday, November 11, 1984

PLACE: 1820 Second Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

INTERVIEW TOPICS
CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS
--When were you born? Where?
--How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
--What are your parents' names?
--Where did you go to school?
--Are you married or single?
--Did you raise a family? How big?
--What has been your occupation (career) during your adult years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community
1. Transportation
6-7 --Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)
5-6 --Trolleys (the Interurban)
--Horses and First Automobiles
--Mud roads and the seedling mile
--Hunter Airport and the first planes
--Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)

2. Communications
--Newspapers
--Radios
--Advertising
--Telephones

B. People in the Community
1. Amusements/Recreation
--Motion Pictures
--Cedar Rapids Parks
--Dances
--Carnival Week
--Chautauqua
12-15 --Community Theater
--Little Gallery
15 --Symphony Orchestra
--Circus
--Greene's Opera House
--Amusement Parks (Alamo)
--Camps
--Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)

2. Famous Characters
--Cherry Sisters
--Grant Wood
--Carl Van Vechten (<u>The Tattooed Countess</u>)
--Marvin Cone

3. Lifestyle
   --Life before air conditioning
   --Winter Activities
17 --Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
   --Clothing
   --Toys
   --Saloons/Taverns
   --Farm Life

4. Family Life
23 --Household Help
   --Women's Roles
18 --Childrens' Activities/Behavior
19 --Sunday activities (Church life, Sunday Blue Laws)

5. Ethnic/Minority Life
   --Immigrants (Czech, Greek, German, etc.)
   --Indians
   --Segregation of Blacks
   --Jobs Available

C. Organizations and Institutions in the Community
1. Education
   --Cedar Rapids Schools
   --Coe College
   --Mount Mercy College
   --Cornell College

2. Government
   --City Services
   --Streets/Roads
   --Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)

3. Medical
   --Hospitals
   --Patient-Doctor Relationship
   --Broken Bones
   --Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases
   --House Calls
   --Home Delivery of Babies
9-12 --White Cross Society

4. Business and Economy
   --Local Factories (Douglas Starch Works, Quaker Oats, etc.)
   --Local Brewing Companies
   --Retail Businesses /Department Stores
   --Professions
   --Banking and Finance
   --Restaurants (Greek Restaurants in 30's)
2-5 --Businesses that no longer exist (old groceries, drygoods, icehouses)
   --Farmers Market
   --Mills on Cedar River
   --Buildings Erected
   --Manual Labor/Types of Jobs
   --Companies (Labor Unions, Strikes, Pay)

5. Attitudes/Values
   --Children/Discipline
   --Sex/Petting
   --Charity
   --Divorce
   --Work
19-20 --Working women, Voting Rights for Women
   --Patriotism (World War I)
23-24--Parenting

D. Historic Events in and Outside the Community
1. Catastrophic Events
   --Clifton Hotel Fire (1903)
22 --Douglas Starch Works Explosion(1919)
23 --Bank Closings (1933)
   --Lyman-Stark Building Collapse(1913)
   --Public Library Murder(1921)

2. National Historic Events
   --Womens' Suffrage
   --World War I
   --Roaring 20's
20 --Prohibition
21 --Great Depression

Elizabeth Carey Glanville was born in 1913 in Cedar Rapids, the daughter of Lila Frick and Edward Joseph Carey. Her father owned a downtown women's clothing store, Martin's. She worked in the store as a young Vassar graduate in the 1930's. She has been active over the years as a community volunteer in the Junior League, White Cross Society, and Community Theater.

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Interviewer: Kristen Larson

KL: Elizabeth, when were you born?

Gville: In 1913, here in Cedar Rapids.

KL: How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?

Gville: All my life.

KL: What were your parent's names?

Gville: Lila Frick and Edward Joseph Carey.

KL: Where did you go to school?

Gville: I went to Emma Willard Preparatory School in Troy, New York, and I graduated from Vassar in Poughkeepsie, New York.

KL: Are you married?

Gville: Yes.

KL: Did you raise a family?

Gville: Yes, I have two children. A girl and a boy, and I have five grandchildren.

KL: Do they live here in Cedar Rapids?

Gville: No, they live in Minneapolis.

KL: What has been your occupation or career during your adult years?

Gville: Well, in my early years, before I was married, after I graduated from college, I worked for my father in Martin's which was a dry-goods store then, they called it. I worked in the ready-to-wear department, and I finally became the buyer. After I was married I worked part-time for five years until my first child was born. Otherwise, I've been big in volunteer work.

KL: Could you tell us some more about the retail business or maybe your earliest recollections of your father's store, which was Martin's.

Gville: Well, my earliest recollections are what I heard from my father, but of course, before the income tax came and all the red tape, it was a delightful occupation. But after Roosevelt came in and all the restrictions were put on them and the income tax became bigger and bigger and the taxation became bigger and bigger it became pretty much of a headache, and there was always far too much competition in retail merchandising in Cedar Rapids. But at one time Martin's was one of the biggest stores in the city. Of course, as you know now, Martin's closed their doors for good this fall. It seems like a terrible shame, but I guess time marches on, and that's progress.

KL: I agree with you, I enjoyed that store, too. Do you remember who the employees were in those early years, did they have mostly male employees?

Gville: Oh no, there were many women. It was apparently a very popular place to work because it was sort of one big family. They'd stay for years and years. I'm sure it wasn't unusual for somebody to be employed as long as 20 to 30 years.

KL: Were there a lot of working women at that time?

Gville: No, but there were a good many female clerks. I think as somebody laughingly said in the later years, it became a wonderful place for women who had retired--to find a part-time job.

KL: Did the women who worked back then work part-time mainly, or full-time?

Gville: Well, I think the ones that worked at that time were probably full-time.

KL: What were the types of merchandise that you had in the store--I imagine it was a variety?

Gville: Well, they had laces, handkerchiefs, gloves, notions, gifts, toiletries, yard goods, linens, ready-to-wear, lingerie, and then they had an extensive household furnishings department--furniture and carpeting.

KL: You mentioned competition back then. Can you remember some other businesses that existed then that no longer do?

Gville: Yes, I certainly do. I can remember Rep's, Newman's, Kramer's, all of which have bit the dust, so to speak. I guess actually Armstrong's was

Gville: only a men's store in the early part of the century, so it was no competition to us at that time. Then, of course, Killian's as the last before us to give up.

KL: Was there a lot of competition between the stores--can you remember any of that? Was the merchandise similar in those stores?

Gville: You know, in my early years, in the 20's and 30's, I was not aware of any store but Martin's. I didn't know anything else existed, and I must say the fact that I had access to a store of that nature and have been able to buy all my necessities at wholesale, I simply do not know how to shop other stores. I am a very unknowledgeable shopper, shall we say. I guess I'll have to learn in my old age.

KL: Was your father active in the store at the time you worked there too?

Gville: Yes, very. My brother and I were both in the store. I was trained and was offered a job in the drama department (I had specialized in drama at Vassar) but I had been away from home for seven years and when I came home I thought it was about time I got acquainted with my family and stayed home for a little while. So people, young girls then, were not that career oriented. I joined the Junior League and got into the saddle with volunteer work, but I was also working at the same time. I was one of the few working people who was a League member, but being my father was my boss, I could get away for the requirements that I had to fulfill for the League.

KL: Was this a real family operation?

Gville: Yes, very definitely. There was one other partner, named Mr. Miller, J. K. Miller, and his son later took over the store. His grandson, Robert Scott Miller has been running Martin's for a good many years in this last decade. Well, I guess it was (I have a very poor way of assessing time at this point in my life) so I suppose he's been here 25 years or so. He first worked in Dayton's and got his training in Dayton's.

KL: What was the downtown like at that time, do you remember any of the restaurants where working people went?

Gville: It seems to me the Butterfly Cafe was..but Whelihan's Drugstore was the meeting place for everybody on the Saturday afternoon after you'd gone either to the Majestic Theater for the vaudeville or a movie, and it was wonderful. It was a good, old-fashioned drugstore. Ice cream and sodas were sold mostly, not all the hosiery and all these crazy things that you buy at a drugstore now.

KL: You mentioned before when we were visiting, about the transportation, and the trolley. What can you tell me about that?

Gville: Well, trolley traffic, street cars, were very, very important as a means of transportation in the city, and there were many of them. I don't know whether you are aware of the fact that there used to be a trolley or "Inter-urban" they called it, that went between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo. And also there was the good old Inter-urban that went between Cedar Rapids

Gville: and Iowa City, and that, I finally remember my days after I graduated from college, we had trips to Iowa City. You always went on the trolley, rather than driving because the roads weren't all that good and it was a much easier trip. Just like these bus trips that I think people take now, they get together and have these bus trips going to the games. It was fun, just as it was fun to ride on a train. You didn't have to keep your eye on the road, and it was not a strain, it was just plain, good fun.

KL: I remember as a child, going on a lot of train trips and I thought it was fun.

Gville: Oh, the trains. How I wish they were back. I mean, I can remember that we used to get on the train early in the morning (I mean, you could, I didn't do it very often) but you could get on early in the morning at six o' clock, I think it was 6:30, have a beautiful breakfast, and be in Chicago at 8:30 or 9 and have a day to shop, and come home in the evening on one of the Streamliners and have an elegant dinner and be home by 9:30 or so. It was wonderful...well, the Streamliners were the most glamorous trains that ever were. I am reminded of the first time we saw a Streamliner. We knew it was due (I can't remember whether it was the City of Portland or the City of Los Angeles) it was due to come in at six in the morning, I think it was, and a whole group of us had been to a party at the country club the night before, and we decided that we were going to stay up all night and see the train come through, so we did (I can't remember where we spent the wee hours of the morning, but I guess it wasn't hard at that point in my life). We bought the morning papers and went down and sat in Green Square, and waited. I think we were there for about an hour. We

had a great group that gathered to see that first Streamliner come into the station, and of course that old Union Station had such character--it was such fun. Of course, you see, I went away to school for seven years, so there was a lot of train travel for me in those days.

KL: Can you describe what the Union Station was like?

Gville: Well, it was really horrible looking. It was a great cavernous affair, very ornate on the outside, but it wasn't anything of beauty by any means but I had such fondness for it because of remembering it. I mean, I was always looking forward to seeing the station when I'd come home from school, and--a nostalgia, I guess you'd say. I hated to see it torn down. I think I was not the only one in Cedar Rapids that hated to see it torn down. I think it's too bad it wasn't preserved and restored as many of the stations have been done in the past.

KL: You mentioned the Majestic Theater before. Was that a real popular place for entertainment?

Gville: Oh very. They not only had the vaudevilles, but they had plays too, that came, and they had very good plays--road shows-- I saw the "Bat". "The Bat" was one of the most famous early mystery storys. It was a horror show, very exciting. I saw Sir Henry Lauder at the Majestic as a child. That was exciting, too, because at that point he was a very famous character.

KL: What about the Green's Opera House?

Gville: Well, that was a little early for me. I remember I danced in the Green's Opera House in one of Bonnie Fischer's...who preceded Miss Dieman and Bennett in having a dance school. Everybody was a pupil and they went to dancing school, and went to Bonnie Fisher, and she used to put on these large shows, I think they called them pageants then, and I think I saw some sort of an extravaganza at some point in my life, but I really and truly can't be that specific about the Green's Opera House. I just thought from a child's viewpoint I thought it was perfectly magnificent.

KL: While we're on entertainment, do you recall any of the radio programs that were on the radio--things that you listened to at all?

Gville: Well, yes, but who were the famous colored (I'm awful about this--the radio). It's been supplanted in my mind by George Burns, Gracie Allen, and George Burns, I think that...I'm thinking of a... I don't think they were black, I think they wore a black face, I can't remember, and they were a famous duo, maybe you can remember. Well, anyway, radio was very important and, as I say, during those particular years I didn't spend a great deal of time listening to the radio because those were the years that I was in school. And Emma Willard was...you did nothing but study at Emma Willard, now at Vassar, I can't say the same, but I was so busy having fun that I don't think I spent a great deal of time listening to the radio, and when I did, in my room, I was busy studying.

KL: How did your father advertise for his store? Did he have newspaper ads, or on the radio or how ...?

Gville: Well, mostly newspaper, but when I came back and went to work for the store, I did do a weekly show, my radio name was Julie Stevens and I did some advertising for ready-to-wear, that was mainly as Julie Stevens. Strangely enough, my first grand-daughter is named Julie Stevens Taylor.

KL: Oh, after you...

Gville: Well, it just so happened, because Julie was the name they chose, and Stevens was my husband's mother's name.

KL: When I visited with you on the phone, you mentioned some volunteer work you did with the White Cross Society.

Gville: The White Cross Society is a very unique society. It's very small, it is made up of currently, of 25 members. When I joined, I was one of the first daughters, and at that point, there were many of the member's daughters becoming of age to join the society, and they made up their minds that they simply were not going to enlarge. The membership was at 30 at that point, and they were not going to enlarge it, so you had to wait your turn. When somebody resigned or died, and many of them were in that position in the early days because the society was founded in the late 1890's, I think it was about 1895 when they started, it was a Sunday School class in the Episcopal Church, but in the 1900's they continued and enlarged it to become the White Cross Society. I don't think it was called the White Cross Society in the earliest years. So, here it has gone on through all this century with just daughters of the former members and we have not enlarged it at all. In fact, it's very much

smaller than it was. It has been devoted to the hospital care of worthy women, and then when we had endowed a room in St. Luke's Hospital, and I think that endowment was fullfilled-$25,000--in the 30's some time, and we'd started endowing a room for children. Well, you know the changes that have been in the hospital, and it was no longer possible for us to have our own room, so we took our own money out of the hospital, and have invested it, and we have been working year to year from our investments, from the return on our investments, plus what we raised at the annual Charity Ball. Now, you have probably not lived in town since we had Charity Balls, but at one time that was the social event of the season. It superseded the Cotton Ball, which the Junior League used to have. It was given at Christmas time, and it was, well, it was the nearest thing to a coming out party for young girls.

KL: We have that in Green Bay, and I made my debut, so to speak, at that. My mother was involved in that...

Gville: They were beautiful balls. They were a great deal of expense, and time was given to the decorations and fine orchestras, and it was a ball, in every sense. We had grand marches, and ultimately we crowned queens, and had attendants, and we raised a good deal of money, which we thought was a good deal of money at that time. But it has since become impossible to raise enough money to warrant the time and effort that is spent. The orchestras have become so expensive. It just isn't a financial successful operation, and with the economy as it has been we felt that there were enough demands on society, and we have been trying to live on our income from the returns from our investments. We have helped--of course, with

the cost of hospital care we're not able to help as many people as we could--but we have also, at one point, with medical insurance and medicare, we found ourselves not having any requests at all, so at that time we spent our funds on medical equipment for the various hospitals. We have bought baby warming beds, I think they call them, for the neo-natal nurseries. We have bought very sophisticated equipment for both hospitals. Now with the change again in hospitalization, we find we are having many more requests for help, in just helping them in their hospitalization, so we're pretty much back to square one.

KL: What was the primary area, when you had profit making or fund raisers in the years past, where did most of that money go?

Gville: Always right back into the fund to help...and we always spent...

KL: Requests that you would get, or...

Gville: Yes, and we'd practically always spend what we had alloted for the year. It's changed so vastly that it's difficult to give you any idea of how many patients we would take per year. I'm sorry I can't give you a ball-park figure, but there have been many, many people who have been very beholden to the White Cross Society. It's sort of, you could almost say it was a secret society, because there's so many people that do not know of the services. Supposedly the clergymen and the doctors are all supposed to be, and the social workers, are all supposed to be aware of our existence, but there have been periods, during the course of this century, that we have felt that they were not aware of the fact that we were there to help.

KL: I am a speech clinician, and some of the students I have received some funds for surgery or whatever they needed through the White Cross Society, so I know it's been very helpful.

Gville: Well, we've never been able to pay the surgical...the doctors, we cannot pay for medicine, but we do pay for the hospitalization.

KL: That's what it was for, that's what I'm thinking of. Going to some other orgainizations that you've been involved with. Tell me about your involvement with the Community Theater.

Gville: The Community Theater, of course, my love is theater. As I told you before, or did I say that that was my primary interest in college, but I'm awfully happy that I never made it my vocation, that I made it my avocation. It has served me to fill my leisure hours. The Community Theater had just bought, or had just rented space for a permanent home in 1934, when I graduated, and I had the pleasure of working on the renovation of that little place. It was in the YMCA, the old YMCA, downstairs in the little theater. At that point it was a very small group that was raising the money. My mother was instrumental in the season ticket drive. I can still see her sitting at her card table with lists upon lists upon lists. I think she would be simply aghast at how many people they have...the season tickets now that are sold, but we think we did a very good job. They had a permanent director for some years. They have had, at times they have had students from Iowa City, graduate students who directed, and during the war years, they had to cease operation for about five years because the director went into the war. Everybody was busy with war work, and so

it was revived in 1948, as the Footlighters, and as you know, now we are happily ensconced in the old Iowa Theater with a beautiful facility, and hopefully we'll be a going operation for many, many years. I have worked, as I said, working on renovation, I have raised money, I have acted, I have directed, I was working on the raising of money for the new Iowa Theater. I'm just definitely an interested sponsor.

KL: Good, what has been your involvement with the puppetry? That's been another love of yours, I think.

Gville: Well, puppetry love was secondary to Children's Theater love, for the Junior League. Of course, puppetry is under the aegis of of the Junior League, but I don't know whether you know, Kris, that there was...we were the, the Junior League was the only place that we gave, once a year, was the only live theater that the children had, and the Junior League gave their first play in 1936, and we gave it in the schools. We trooped it to the schools. At that time I directed, in fact, I directed all the shows up until, through 1940, and I've since, through the years gone back and forth directing a great many more, but in 1948 they went in to puppetry, and they...I wasn't interested at that point because I had my hands full with my children and with what I was doing in Children's Theater. But I did go and bail them out. They needed some help with their first show--pulling it together, and then they said, well now you've got to help us next year, well gradually I got more interested and more interested and it turns out that I have been directing puppet shows for the Junior League ever since the early 50's. It's a fascinating medium; of course, it's actually a capsule version of Children's Theater, but

there are so many more limitations, naturally, you can understand that, just in the matter of entrances and exits, and people not being able to pass each other and turn around. But, I think the thing that I have enjoyed so much more than anything else--we always used to call it when we'd get going--we'd rehearse for three to four weeks and one week of performance, so it was a good four to five weeks this group would be together. Well, you felt like you'd been on a trip with people. We called it our winter vacation because we usually did this in the winter.

KL: Did you make all the puppets as well?

Gville: Yes, we have made all the puppets. Now, I was not involved in that area. I was involved in the production area, but the girls have made the puppets, and there are some beautiful, beautiful puppets and we have a great many of them. But, of course, before we went into hand puppets we had marionettes and for twelve years we worked with marionettes. It wasn't until 1960 that we went into hand puppets.

KL: Are all these puppets stored somewhere?

Gville: The marionettes, I'm afraid, through the years..they're in a trunk somewhere that I think, who knows who has that trunk. But the hand-puppets, well hand-puppets we've done for the last 15 to 20 years are stored in a basement of Dr. Purdy's office out in Marion.

KL: Were your children involved in any of the productions of the Children's Theater or were they interested in it?

Gville: My daughter, I tried to beat it into her head, and she was in our creative dramatics when the Children's Theater of Cedar Rapids was formed, and that

was in 1952--51, and we had very extensive creative dramatic classes, and I had her in in the creative dramatic classes and she appeared in some of the productions as a creative dramatic student. But, actually, she was rebelling, she was only doing it because I told her she had to, and she has been very active in the Minneapolis Junior League and Welfare, and mainly child abuse. She was the founder of the Crisis Nursery which was founded two or three years ago in Minneapolis. So she had...her interests lay elsewhere. And Peter, while he was the biggest hambone--he was a real clown--never has shown any interest like I have. He has dramatic talent, but he's never gone into it at all. No they haven't.

KL: Have you ever had any involvement with the symphony, or do you have any recollections of attending the symphony?

'ville: Oh yes, I attend all the symphony concerts. I have attended the symphony. My mother loved it and I used to go with her when Mr. Kitchen that was in the very early years of the symphony, when they were all local people, they were all volunteers, and it has grown a great deal since that day, but I must say that it was very acceptable at that time, and of course it was really amateur. Some of their concerts left a little bit to be desired. Then Henry Denecke came with Julia, and that was our first really professional director, and I think they have made great strides each time they've hired another director. The symphony has grown and grown. I've never been a part of the Women's Auxiliary. I simply haven't had time for it, but I'm a great fan of the symphony.

KL: Okay, why don't we switch gears a little bit now and talk about family life back in the 30's or as early as you can remember.

Gville: Kris, before we go, I'd like to say something. I was very instrumental in the formation of the Children's Theater of Cedar Rapids. We realized that we were not serving a large enough group, and we simply had to have more exposure, and the only way we could get it was to get it into a civic group and get the whole town behind it. So I was a member of the first board and I think I was the third president, and for 10 years I was in the administrative side of the Children's Theater. But that is not my great love, and after I had seen it well launched with a wildly successful operation--obviously the community was thirsty for just such an organization. When it was well founded I simply switched gears and went back into production and started directing plays for the League to produce, and they were always one of the season series of three for many, many years. And as you know, I directed the show last year celebrating the Junior League's fiftieth anniversary. And that was really a great, great experience to have. I felt like we went back in time a great many years. Some of the girls that had been in it some thirty years ago were in that show, and worked on it.

KL: That's great. Were the plays and shows that you put on back in those days, did you write those stories or did you...?

Gville: No, the Junior League had a Children's Library--Children's Plays Library. The Junior League was very, very interested in children's theater. In 1930 to 19--oh it would be about 1950, and they had a paid consultant that would come out and help you and give workshops. They really were big in the Children's Theater movement. No, we did mostly fairy tales and we used mostly the scripts that we got from the Junior League Library--the Junior League's Play Library, or they would recommend plays that we could get

from other sources. We've only done one original children's play, but we've done many, many original puppet shows. The puppet shows have all been written by our members for about the last 12 years.

KL: Okay, anything else you'd like to say on that subject? Okay, going to family life, what were the holidays like when you were a young child or a young person?

Gville: Very, very family oriented and very, very beautiful. Our family was a very close family. I had two sisters and a brother, and we...

KL: Where did you live as a child?

Gville: Well, I lived at 848 Fourth Avenue, and then I lived at 2317 Grand Avenue, that's where Eunice King lives now. I thought we lived in a palace, it seemed to me, it was so big and beautiful I couldn't believe that I was so lucky to live there. But, you know, in the early times we had help, and (live in help too--two maids that lived in, and wonderful cooks) everything was done very formally. Dinners, and the meals were all served, of course, and it was on a much grander scale. But I can't say that it was any more fun, except that we had so many people with the four of us and then when we all got married we all still--three of us lived here. And we'd all get together, so it was just bigger and better. Especially at Christmas and at Thanksgiving. We always celebrated Thanksgiving, and we always had Easter. I thought Easter was very important. I must've been fully 12 years old when I couldn't believe the Easter Bunny didn't come. They said, well, the Easter Bunny wasn't coming to our house this year. I burst into tears, so they quickly had to go get some eggs, and dye some eggs so that I could hunt. Imagine being 12 years old and being such an idiot!

KL: What were some of the activities that children were involved in back in those days, how do they differ from today?

Gville: Well, of course, there wasn't so much organized activity. I think the Campfire Girls, yes the Campfire Girls were going, but you didn't have all of the activities, the school's activities weren't as organized and everybody seemed to take music lessons, and whether you had any talent or not, and dancing lessons up to a point. They were pretty much the same, I think. Our lives were quite structured, but there was lots of time for you to do your own thing, so to speak. I was always having pageants and getting everybody corraled because I had the biggest yard, and I always made myself princess because I had the longest curls, so being the directorial... I guess I was a director right from the time I was born because, I think I could talk faster and louder than anybody else, so that's why I got to be the director.

KL: I see; What were some of the things you and your brothers and sisters..?

Gville: Well, we were four years apart. Now my brother was just somebody in a different realm. I mean, he was very big in athletics and I remember we always went to all of his games and were spectators. My sister would have no part of me until I was well into the teens, although she did take me on because she thought I was so hopeless that she was going to see what she could--I think I was sort of her Pygmalion. So, and then my younger sister was seven years younger than I, so there really wasn't, except for the family Christmas and things, we did not do things on a day to day basis together. We all had our own friends and I just seem to always remember groups of children at my house, and we went in a large group like they do now, it was a group movement. We had a ballroom down in the basement,

when we were teenagers, it seems to me that we had parties every weekend.

KL: What were Sundays like?

Gville: Sundays in my early days were.. I had a grandmother who was the next thing to a Baptist, a First Christian, and she was very strict and she was a matriarche and we all towed the line for Grandmother. She didn't approve of playing cards or going to the movies on Sunday, so we naturally...and dancing--Heavens, no way! So we didn't ever do anything like that. I don't know what we did do on Sundays. And we always had the big Sunday dinner, and Grandmother was always, we had to go to her house for Sunday night supper, and then we went to church in the morning and Christian Endeavor at night. It was a busy religious day.

KL: Do you have much recollection of divorce among people?

Gville: Well certainly not like it is now. I mean, if I had even thought of getting divorced I wouldn't have done it while my grandmother was alive, because it would have broken her heart. I think there was a great deal more stigma attached to divorce, and I think people thought a great deal more about it before they took the step.

KL: You mentioned before, voting rights of women. What can you recall about that?

Gville: Oh, I have a funny story to tell about that. I had a nurse until I was five or six years old, I think--those were those good old days--and my nurse was asking me who I loved, and I said Maul--that was her name--and then she said what about mother, and I said, "Oh Mother comes in for lunch." So that sort of took care of Mother, and I guess the reason Mother only

came in for lunch was because she was so busy beating the bushes for women's rights, and that is my only recollection of women's rights is that my mother was never home, and I really had no idea what kind of a person she was.

KL: Was she involved in a lot of charity work?

Gville: Well, I guess she was. I think she was in Needlework Guild or something, she was always massing lots of clothes, and I don't know who it all went to, but she was very much of a home body. I say I didn't know my mother, that's ridiculous, I mean, I wore my hair up in buns,rag curls. I had long curls until I was 12 also. Every night she would have to put our hair up in rags, and we'd have long chats. That was sort of a children's hour for her, I think. And we always had dinner together, the children never ate supper early. It was always a family dinner, we always ate all our meals together. So I can't say that I ...that was just this one incident when I was little and she was very, very busy on that. She was always a campaigner, there's no doubt about that. As I said she campaigned for the Community Theater, and was very instrumental in making it a success in the early days.

KL: What do you recall about prohibition?

Gville: Well prohibition, in my estimation was fun because I don't remember anything about...wine was always served in our family, and liquor, but it was my family's feeling that you should not, if you were going to drink, you should drink at home, but of course, they didn't encourage this, and I went through the era of spiked beer, but I was too young to really be a spiked beer fan. So my first brush and awareness of prohibition was when

I was in college, and I'd go to New York and the Speak-easies were so glamorous, they were such wonderful places. They had marvelous bands and I just thought that I'd gone to heaven and come back again when I'd go on a weekend to New York from Vassar. They were really much more fun than bars, and now that I think about it, they were probably very expensive, and I wonder how the young men that took me there had the money to pay for it. But somehow, I wasn't spending a great deal of time thinking about where the sheckels were coming from. That was the late 1920's and the early 30's--no, I was in college in the 30's, but I'm afraid I wasn't that aware of it until 1932 or so.

KL: What are you recollections of the Depression, how did that effect your family...?

Gville: Well, the Depression, unfortunately, I feel that I was aware, I guess, but it didn't hit the Midwest as strongly as it did the East. When the crash came in 1929, our Head Mistress gathered the whole school together and told us what had happened and what impact it was going to have on so many of the families, and tried to impress us that it was going to be a terrible situation, and I was aware of it, and I knew that...you know, I saw the bread lines, and I saw the men standing in their Chesterfield overcoats who had obviously been wealthy people, standing and selling apples. It was all there, and in the plays that we did in the Experimental Theater at Vassar there was an original play that I was in, was all about the Depression, so I surely must have been aware. But as far as it affecting me, my father somehow found the money to continue my education at Vassar. I didn't really get the feeling of it until I graduated and started to work and worked for $13 a week. Then I realized that there was a Depression.

and what the incomes were. I was well aware of the deprivation, and life was very simple. Of course, I had to drag in my horns, but I can't say that I suffered terribly.

KL: What do you recall about the hospitals, what were they like at that time? You'd mentioned home deliveries too...

Gville: Well, all four of us were born at home. I was born in 1913 and I think that the hospitals at that time were starting to have people come there to be born, but even my youngest sister who was born in 1920 was born at home. If people could take care of it in the home I think that they felt it was superior to the care they would get in the hospitals. As I say, I have been very aware of how the costs of hospitalization and how the technology and the nursing care has improved through the years because of my work with the White Cross, and of course, I have been fortunate enough not to be in the hospital many times. So I personally have not had that much...but I'm well aware of the great strides that have been made in the hospitalizations.

KL: Were the hospitals--the early ones--if you remember, in homes that had been converted, or did they actually build a hospital? Do you have any recollections of that?

Gville: No, all I was aware of was Mercy and St. Lukes, I don't know that.

KL: Do you have any recollection of any of the catastrophies that happened back in those days?

Gville: Yes, I remember the Starch Works explosion. We were sitting at dinner, and it knocked us off our chairs and we went outside, and we saw this

great mushroom of smoke and Dad said, "Oh my Goodness, it must be the Starch Works!" and we went down and watched the fire. That one comes to my mind. I was very young at the time.

KL: That was 1919. Bank closings, do you..?

Gville: Oh yes, my father was in a bank, and I remember the bank closings. That's I think when I realized that the Depression was starting to affect me, because the bank my father was connected with was closed, and ultimately closed permanently. I certainly wish I...I think my father was more affected by the bank closings than I was. I must say my father protected me very definitely through the entire Depression. He suffered from it definitely, and I realize now what sacrifices he must have made to keep me in college.

KL: You were maybe too young for this one...there was a murder at the Public Library...

Gville: No, I don't remember that.

KL: You'd only be eight then. Okay, how do you see parenting as being different back when you were a young girl?

Gville: Well, I view it very differently. In as much as I am very close to parenting now with my two children's families--watching their modus operandi--and I work puppetry with a great many young people, so I am aware, I hear during the rehearsals their problems. The stress, I think, on a parent now, is vastly stronger than it was in my parent's day. They all had household help, they didn't have to do any of the laundry and they could sort of be the lady of the house and sit back and be the director of traffic, so to

speak. Now, I feel that the permissiveness that some of the parents show, I don't approve of. I mean, I do not like to see the sassiness and talking back that...we would never think of talking back to our parents! We might figure a way to get around them, and I don't think we were ever dishonest with them. We were taught that honesty was...we just had so much respect for them, that we didn't...they were a figure that you just didn't...you observed their rules. But, on the other hand, we didn't do as many things with our mother and father day by day as children do now, mainly because we didn't help with household chores like children do now. We had maids who could do it for us, and that wasn't very healthy. So I think there are many plusses on parenting now, probably more plusses.

End of Side 1

End of Interview